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DRAFT GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Agreed text submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole

A. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, and to A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a Standing Committee/ad hoc Working Group on ..... is established by the Trade and Development Board with the following terms of reference:

[terms of reference of the respective Committee/Working Group to follow]

B. The work of the Committee/Working Group should follow a progressive sequence in accordance with paragraphs 49 to 60 of the Cartagena Commitment. In line with what is set out in the Cartagena Commitment, particularly paragraphs 18 and 47, the Committee/Working Group should be inspired by the need to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. It should provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among member States so as to enable them to draw appropriate lessons for the formulation and implementation of policies at the national and international levels and for international economic cooperation.

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C. In its work, the Committee/Working Group should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences. It may base its work on country reviews by the secretariat and seek from relevant countries the presentation of studies on their national experiences. It could also, depending on the issue, seek the participation of, and draw on the experience and expertise of, non-governmental actors, particularly enterprises, trade unions, the academic community and non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of international institutions.

D. The Committee/Working Group should identify for consideration areas in which technical cooperation should be strengthened.

E. The work of the Committee/Working Group should be coordinated with that of other Committees and Working Groups.

F. The work of the Committee/Working Group should complement that of other international bodies while seeking to ensure that no duplication occurs.

G. The Committee/Working Group may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups.

H.(i) The Committee shall submit periodic reports to the Trade and Development Board on its work. In accordance with para. 68 of the Cartagena Commitment the Board will conduct a review and evaluation of the work programme of the Committee midway between Conferences.

H.(ii) The Working Group shall complete its work within two years of the adoption of its terms of reference. It may submit interim reports and shall submit a final report on the results of its work to the Trade and Development Board.

I. The frequency of sessions of the Committee/Working Group is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less.